



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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September 26, 2012

FB12-071

NOAA Fisheries Announces New Regulations for Wreckfish in the South Atlantic Region *Small Entity Compliance Guide*

NOAA Fisheries published a final rule implementing Amendment 20A to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region (Amendment 20A) in the *Federal Register* on September 26, 2012 (77 FR 59129). **Regulations will be effective on October 26, 2012.**

Amendment 20A affects the commercial sector of the wreckfish component of the snapper-grouper fishery, which is managed under an individual transferable quota program. Since the program began in 1992, some wreckfish shares have become inactive, meaning some shareholders are not using their shares, nor making them available to other active fishermen. Therefore, the final rule for Amendment 20A includes the following actions intended to maximize harvest potential for active commercial wreckfish shareholders:

- Define and revoke inactive wreckfish shares.
- Redistribute revoked shares to active shareholders.
- Establish an appeals process for determinations of share status and redistribution.
- Define a cap on the number of shares one entity may own.

This bulletin serves as a Small Entity Compliance Guide, complying with section 212 of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996.

Electronic copies of the amendment and final rule may be obtained from the NOAA Fisheries Web site:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/SGAmendment20A.htm>. For more information on Amendment 20A, please refer to the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the NOAA Fisheries Web site.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

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